

When selecting among therapeutic cannabis products, quality of product is the utmost concern. The cannabis and hemp industries are largely unregulated. Quality standards required by individual states vary; oftentimes, such standards are nonexistent.

So how can you be sure to receive a product you can trust?

At Realm of Caring, many of our staff and families struggled with the same question. Over time, we learned to ask specific questions to discern quality products. Where is the cannabis grown or sourced? What solvents or other chemicals are used? What is the product tested for, what testing method is used, and who does the testing?

A few companies are taking quality to the next level in their products. We at Realm of Caring are excited to recognize these companies and partner with them in order to guarantee our clients have access to trusted options when exploring cannabinoid therapy.

Consulting with professionals having over 25 years of experience in quality systems in the pharmaceutical industry, and looking to national standards such as the FDA's Current Good Manufacturing Practices (CGMP) and the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) Guidelines, we established our quality standards checklist. Certain product lines meet these strict standards, which includes us personally visiting their cultivation centers and labs to ensure the standards are being kept. These products earn our "Realm of Caring Approved" seal. When shopping for the best cannabis extracts, you can trust those carrying our seal, just as we trust them for our loved ones.



## What about other products?

Here are some great questions to ask manufacturers and suppliers to better understand the quality and consistency of their products.

### Sourcing

1. In what country is the product grown?
2. Is it certified as hemp? By whom?
3. Is it grown naturally using organic processes?
4. Can you track production of the product from seed to delivery?
5. Is there a consistent supply? Is it possible I'll run out?

### Quality

1. How many milligrams of active cannabinoids (CBD, THC, THC-A, etc.) does the product contain? What is the total volume (milliliters) of the product?
  - a. Active cannabinoids are typically described in terms of milligrams per milliliter (mg/ml).
2. Is the product third party tested for the following:
  - a. Identity
  - b. Potency (Cannabinoid Profile)
  - c. Heavy Metals:
    - i. Inorganic Arsenic
    - ii. Cadmium
    - iii. Lead
    - iv. Methylmercury
  - d. Residual Solvents
  - e. Aflatoxins
  - f. Microbial Contaminants:
    - i. Aerobic Plate Count
    - ii. Yeast and Molds
    - iii. Coliforms
    - iv. Salmonella spp.
    - v. Escherichia coli
3. Is it produced in an FDA registered lab?
  - a. Are they following the [FDA's CGMP standards](#)?
  - b. Do they adhere to the [American Herbal Products Association \(AHPA\) guidelines](#)?

### Cost and Customer Service

1. What is the cost per milligram? Is there financial assistance?
2. Is there a refund policy?
3. Is customer service readily available?
4. Who will help me with questions regarding use of the product?

**We're here to help!**

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